

St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2013

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Smith at 8:30 am.

Members Present: Charlie Smith, Cheri Richter, John Morrissey, and Terry Landreth

Members not Present: Jerry Brandon, Gary Straight and Jim Lomis

Guest in attendance: none

Staff: Steven S. Crowell, Jr.; Interim Economic Development Director, Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant

Minutes: The board reviewed the November 18, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Landreth and seconded by Richter. All were in favor.

Treasurers Report: Smith reviewed the financials and motion to approve was made by Morrissey and seconded by Landreth. All were in favor.

Additions to the Agenda: Smith added Morrissey discussion to the agenda and Morrissey added Economic Development discussion to the agenda.

Weed Street Presentation: Morrissey reported that he approached both groups to see if there was an interest in discussing their status with the Weed Street proposed projects. Both projects, (STEM initiative and Georgia Aquarium project), are progressing and increased activity may be seen after the holidays. Morrissey suggested that both groups be invited after January to update the board on their status.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Team Camden: Renée reported that there was no December meeting. In January Team Camden will meet to determine the future direction of the group.

St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG): Morrissey reported that today is the last date for the hearing and an announcement will be made at the Council Meeting on December 16th. If no complaints are heard, the dock will open on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. The SMIG chairman will also give a report to council at tonight's meeting. Morrissey suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony be had at the docks once reopened.

Maritime Heritage District (MHD): It was noted that this item is on the Council agenda tonight to approve the feasibility report.

Economic Development Committee: Smith noted that the two chairmen, Lomis and Jeff Barker, have been continually working on information gathering. The committee did an exercise polling 50 and over aged individuals settling in the area. The exercise identified qualities that these individuals look for in an area and the data will be compiled into a dashboard in the future.

History Trail Park: Morrissey reported that he met with the Tourism Director on this idea and will meet again at the end of January. He mentioned a marsh walk park/trail that he discovered in Jacksonville near the Mayo clinic and invited people to visit if in the vicinity. The thoughts for the History Trail Park locally are to place markers by trees near the cemetery that speak to the

significance of the tree and the area it is located. Morrissey would like to have this project completed by 2015 to culminate with the close of the War of 1812 events. Funding for this project will be needed.

DDA Golf Cart: The board again discussed the \$1500 offer that was received from St. Marys Parts. An advertisement has been placed for two weeks in the Tribune & Georgian and to date no offers have been received. The board advised that if no offer is received by noon on December 27th, the City Manager will proceed to call the contact at Big A to proceed with the sale. Motion to approve the City Manager to proceed with the sale was made by Morrissey and seconded by Landreth. All were in favor.

Morrissey Discussion: Morrissey noted that the JDA Director has submitted his resignation. A search for a new JDA Director will begin in January. The City Manager asked what the thoughts of the board were in regards to the Main Street Program and the Economic Development role for St. Marys now that the JDA position has become vacant. The board suggested that someone from the Main Street program attend the January meeting to discuss the program in detail and its benefits. If a Main Street program representative is unavailable the board requested the Main Street Director from Kingsland be asked to attend.

Morrissey announced that US Representative Jack Kingston will be speaking on Wednesday, December 17th in Camden County on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood issue. The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) review was held on Thursday, December 12th and the report is currently on the county website. Morrissey noted that the Atlanta Fly-In is scheduled for February 9th and the FEMA Flood issue as well as the park service contract renewal will be discussed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Businesses and Updates: The City Manager had nothing to report. Morrissey submitted his resignation to the DDA board due to changing positions on the council in January. The board thanked him for his time and service to the DDA and the city. The City Manager asked if now would be the time to ask the Industrial Development Authority if they have a member who would be interested in sitting on the DDA board. Comment was made whether or not it is required that a councilmember was required to sit on the board. Renée will research to see if this is a requirement. Smith will invite the IDA board to the January meeting as well as Attorney Smith to get his counsel on how to operate the two boards more cohesively.

Video Presentation: Smith shared the presentation he created approximately two months prior and after the short video a conversation was had as to what steps should be taken to address some of the issues/problems noted in the video. Smith will work on identifying 5-6 people in the community who share an interest in St. Marys and discuss a future Economic Development plan.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am with a motion by Landreth and seconded by Morrissey. All were in favor.

Charlie Smith, Secretary
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant